



+

+

+

+

+

+

+

[Home](#) / [Culture](#) / [Theatre](#) /

Fringe Festival 2019 wrap-up

Filipinx shows and a variety of works dealing with mental illness received big buzz at this year's record-breaking Toronto Fringe



Tita Jokes was one of two Filipinx-themed hits at the fest.

The 31st annual Toronto Fringe broke box office records.

The 12-day festival, which wrapped up on Sunday, July 14, sold \$40,000 more in tickets than last year's edition. It sold 68,000 tickets, up from last year's 66,300.

Among the hits was [Boy Falls From The Sky: Jake Epstein Live At Supermarket](#), which was featured on [NOW's cover](#), got a 5N review and sold-out its run before opening day. Other buzzed-about shows included [Death Ray Cabaret](#), [Night Feed](#), [The Huns](#) and two Filipinx-themed shows, [Through The Bamboo](#) and [Tita Jokes](#). All received critic's picks ratings from NOW.

Speaking of reviews, NOW's [mid-fest list](#) of picks (and a shorter list of shows to avoid) generated lots of discussion about whether to tell people not to see shows, something we do at other major festivals.

Accessibility was top of mind at this Fringe; ticket purchases came with a note asking if buyers had special needs, and a call-out before each show asked if people needed more time to enter a theatre.

The use of the two Streetcar Crowsnest spaces brought the Fringe to the east end, but because there weren't many other venues in the area, travelling there was a destination. If it's used next year, perhaps more venues – both regular and site-specific – could be added in the neighbourhood, increasing spontaneous, walk-by interest and purchases.

Another oddity of this Fringe was the incongruity between a show's scope and its venue. Both [Dandelion](#) and [Jay & Eytan](#) seemed overwhelmed in the large Randolph Theatre.



The exquisite Night Feed was one of several works dealing with mental illness and depression.

If there was a theme that ran through many of the 151 shows, it was mental illness and depression. It emerged in shows as diverse as Boy Falls From The Sky and [Destiny, USA](#) to Night Feed, [Didn't Hurt](#), [Emotional Labour](#), [The Break-Up Diet](#) and [The Weight Of It All](#).

Reviews of these shows and others can be found in our [Fringe directory](#). Shows chosen for Best Of Fringe (July 19 to 28) can be found [here](#).

Here's NOW's annual list of the best of the fest.



Laura Anne Harris's [Destiny, USA](#) was entertaining, timely and deeply moving.

OUTSTANDING NEW PLAYS OR MUSICALS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

[After The Beep](#); Boy Falls From The Sky; Jake Epstein Live At Supermarket; The Break-Up Diet; [Destiny, USA](#); [Didn't Hurt](#); [Drama 101, A New Musical](#); Emotional Labour; [Horseface](#); The Huns; Night Feed; [Old-ish](#); [Three Men On A Bike](#); [Til Death: The Six Wives Of Henry VIII](#); The Weight Of It All

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTIONS

Boy Falls From The Sky; Death Ray Cabaret; [Destiny, USA](#); [Drama 101](#); [Horseface](#); The Huns; Night Feed; [Old-ish](#); Tita Jokes; The Weight Of It All

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

Eric Andrews ([Audience Of One](#)); Jordan Armstrong and Kevin Matviw (Death Ray Cabaret); Laura Bailey ([Clitoria: A Sex-Positive Superhero!](#)); Gillian Bartolucci (The Weight Of It All); Madeleine Brown ([News Play](#)); Brittany Cope (Checkpoint 300); Trevor Copp ([Searching For Marceau](#)); Alex Dallas ([Horseface](#)); Jake Epstein (Boy Falls From The Sky); Charlotte Moore ([Spend Your Kids' Inheritance](#)); Cathy Schenkelberg ([Squeeze My Cans](#)); Sara and Alene Shanazarian ([Allegra & Serena Present: Twinsations](#)); Tracey Erin Smith ([The Big House](#)); Tara Travis (Til Death)

OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLES

Be Kind, Rewind; The December Man; Drama 101; Mayhem At Miskatonic; Night Feed; Through The Bamboo; Three Men On A Bike; Tita Jokes; Woke 'N Broke

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION

Boy Falls From The Sky (Robert McQueen); Death Ray Cabaret (Shari Hollett); Drama 101 (Steven Gallagher); The Huns (Marie Farsi); Three Men On A Bike (Sue Miner); Til Death (Ryan Gladstone); The Weight Of It All (Carly Heffernan)

@glennsumi

Tags

- FRINGE 2019
- STAGE TOP STORY
- STAGE
- CULTURE



Glenn Sumi



Related

Fringe Fest 2019: What to see, what to skip

There are seven days left to catch some seriously good theatre at the annual fest. Here are a few of our critics' picks – and pans.

Fringe 2019: Patron's Picks and Best Of Fringe shows announced

5N shows Drama 101, Boy Falls From The Sky, The Huns, Night Feed and Death Ray Cabaret are among the Fringe hits getting extra performances

Fringe preview: Alex Dallas takes on men, manspreading and #MeToo

When Donald Trump called Stormy Daniels "Horseface" on Twitter, the UK-born artist knew she had the name for her new solo show

Comments

NOW Theatre Rating System

- NNNNN** Standing ovation
 - NNNN** Sustained applause
 - NNN** Recommended, memorable scenes
 - NN** Seriously flawed
 - N** Get out the hook
-

What's on

Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Tuesday

July 16, 2019

Critics' Picks

Belle And Sebastian, Men I Trust

Jul 16, 2019 7:00 PM

Danforth Music Hall

Critics' Picks

Purling Hiss, Writhing Squares, Shade

Jul 16, 2019 8:00 PM

Monarch Tavern

Critics' Picks

Waitress

Jul 9, 2019 - Aug 18, 2019

Ed Mirvish Theatre

Search Events Submit Yours

Search all events

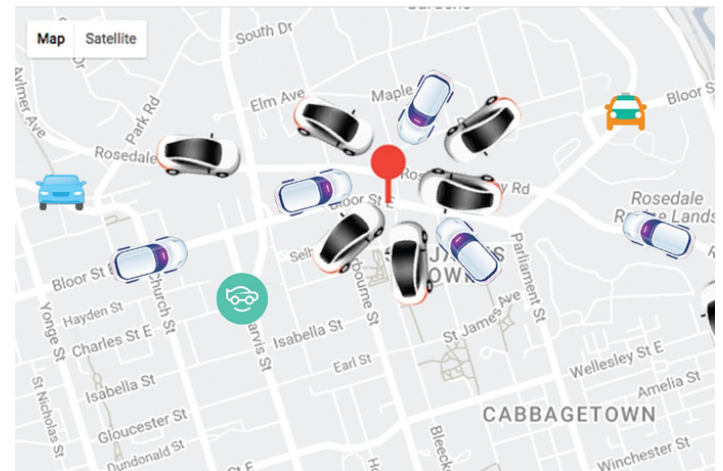
Recent updates



My 5N interview with the sober guy behind Drunk Glenn Sumi

The Beaverton writer Aaron Hagey-Mackay discusses the parody Twitter account's origins, the arbitrariness of

ratings and why he doesn't drink [Read more](#)



Uber drivers fight customer rating system

GTA drivers who have joined the United Food and Commercial Workers Union say one complaint from a disgruntled customer could mean losing your job [Read more](#)



Fringe Festival 2019 wrap-up

Filipinx shows and a variety of works dealing with mental illness received big buzz at this year's record-breaking Toronto Fringe [Read more](#)



Much Ado About Nothing in High Park is an uneven outdoor offering

Liza Balkan's production for Canadian Stage lacks subtlety, but Shakespeare's wit and wisdom still come through [Read more](#)



New Toronto restaurants: Whale Juice & Blends

Ryu's Noodle Bar returns to downtown; Julie's Cuban, Vegetarian Haven and Ematei call it quits; Toronto Popcorn Company heads east and more in your weekly dose of Toronto restaurant news [Read more](#)



Q&A: The Lion King's Billy Eichner

The comedian discusses taking on the role of Timon, branching out from Billy On The Street and tweeting in the time of Trump [Read more](#)



My 5N interview with the sober guy behind Drunk Glenn Sumi

The Beaverton writer Aaron Hagey-Mackay discusses the parody Twitter account's origins, the arbitrariness of ratings and why he doesn't drink [Read more](#)

Uber drivers fight customer rating system

GTA drivers who have joined the United Food and Commercial Workers Union say one complaint from a disgruntled customer could mean losing your job [Read more](#)

Fringe Festival 2019 wrap-up

Filipinx shows and a variety of works dealing with mental illness received big buzz at this year's record-breaking Toronto Fringe [Read more](#)

Much Ado About Nothing in High Park is an uneven outdoor offering

Liza Balkan's production for Canadian Stage lacks subtlety, but Shakespeare's wit and wisdom still come through [Read more](#)

New Toronto restaurants: Whale Juice & Blends

Ryu's Noodle Bar returns to downtown; Julie's Cuban, Vegetarian Haven and Ematei call it quits; Toronto Popcorn Company heads east and more in your weekly dose of Toronto restaurant news [Read more](#)

Q&A: The Lion King's Billy Eichner

The comedian discusses taking on the role of Timon, branching out from Billy On The Street and tweeting in the time of Trump [Read more](#)

[Careers](#) [About](#) [FAQ](#) [Our People](#) [Archives](#) [Newsletters](#) [Contact](#)

Built with Metro Publisher™